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31 December 2007

Transmitted by email: ...

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Dear Bahá'í Friend,

Your email letter of 18 November 2007, enquiring whether it would be appropriate for your son, ..., to join the police force and in so doing bear arms, has been received at the Bahá'í World Centre and forwarded to our Department for reply.

Within the framework of present-day society, there is, in general, no objection to Bahá'ís volunteering to serve in the law enforcement agencies of their respective countries, including those which bear arms as part of their duties. Obviously, police forces vary considerably from country to country, and their responsibilities may further vary according to local situations. The Universal House of Justice feels, therefore, that, under current world conditions, no hard and fast rule can be laid down. Should a believer have a strong desire to participate in law enforcement, he is free to arrive at his own conclusions in the matter. Your son may find it helpful to consult with trusted individuals knowledgeable about the field in order to make this decision. If in doubt, you or your son may also wish to seek the guidance of your National Spiritual Assembly as it is in the best position to offer advice in relation to conditions within your country.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat